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1964

BOROUGH OF MALMESBURY

THE

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the

YEAR ENDED

31st. DECEMBER, 1964.

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

(a) MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

C.L. Broomhead, T.D., M.D.,B.Ch.,D.P.H.
5, High Street, CHIPPENHAM. Tel: Chipp. 2821.

also Medical Officer of Health for the Boroughs of Calne and Chippenham and the rural districts of Calne & Chippenham and Malmesbury; Assistant County Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer.

(b) PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

J. Stirling, Cert. R.S.A. (Scot).,Meat & Food Inspector's Cert.

who combined the duties with that of Borough Surveyor.

(c) SECRETARY TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

S.G.V. Williamson, Cert. R.I.P.H.H.

(d) PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

The General Purposes Committee of the Council deals with all matters pertaining to Public Health.

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The Mayor, Aldermen & Councillors,
Malmesbury Borough Council.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my annual report for the year ending 31st. December, 1964 in accordance with Regulation 15(5) of the Public Health Officers Regulations, 1959.

Copies of the report are required by the Ministry of Housing & Local Government, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries & Food and H.M. Inspector of Factories; a copy is also sent to the County Medical Officer of Health.

There were 79 live births registered in the Borough during 1964; an increase of 24 live births over the total (ie 55) registered during 1963. The birth rate therefore has risen considerably to 30.8 per 1000 of the population.

The Still Birth Rate and the Infant Mortality Rate also shows a sharp rise as compared with the rates for 1963, ie 17.9 and 18.0 respectively.

The adjusted death rate for the Borough, on the otherhand, is slightly lower than the rate of 13.5 per 1000 of the population given in the annual report for 1963.

It is inevitable that the vital statistics relative to a community of 2,680, will fluctuate widely as a result of a few additional births and deaths over a year. The sharp rises and falls which may occur from year to year are therefore of little statistical significance.

Apart from one notified case of measles, the Borough apparently enjoyed complete freedom from infectious diseases, particularly the more series infections such as Poliomyelitis and Tuberculosis.

I am grateful to Mr. Walker for his contribution to this report. The detail and statistics given by this officer have been compiled from the inadequate records available.

In conclusion, my thanks are due to Mr. Weston and the staff of the Council for their co-operation during the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

C.L. BROOMHEAD

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	227
Population	2,680
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1964 according to the Rate Book).	875
Rateable Value	£89,414.
Sum represented by the Penny Rate	£342.

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	33	39	72
Illegitimate	1	6	7
Total	34	45	79

Crude Birth Rate for the Borough . . . . . .29.4 per 1000 of the population.

Adjusted Birth Rate for the Borough . . . . . 30.8 per 1000 of the population.

Comparative rate for England & Wales . . . . . 18.4 per 1000 of the population.

Members of the Armed Forces stationed in the area are included in the population figure shown under the heading "General Statistics". To make an approximate allowance for the way in which the sex and age distribution of the local population differs from England & Wales as a whole, the crude birth rate and the crude death rate for the Borough are to be multiplied by a "comparability factor" given by the Registrar General. The above statistics have been so corrected.

STILL BIRTHS

Three still births were notified during the year under review as compared with one still birth during 1963. The rate per 1000 total life and still births for 1964 is 36.5; the comparative rate for England & Wales is 16.3

INFANT MORTALITY.

Five children, all under the age of one year, died during 1964. One of these children died as a result of Leukaemia; the death of the remaining four children has been classified by the Registrar General against the headings "Congenital Malformations" and "Other defined and ill-defined diseases". The Infant Mortality rate per 1000 live births is 63.2; the comparative rate for England & Wales is 20.0.

DEATHS

The following deaths were notified during 1964.

Males	Females	Total.
21	20	41

Crude death rate for the Borough 15.2
per 1000 of the population.
Adjusted death rate for the Borough 12.6
per 1000 of the population.
Comparative rate for England & Wales 11.3
per 1000 of the population.

ANALYSIS OF CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Males	Females	Total
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	-	2
Malignant neoplasm, Lung,Bronchus	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	-	3	3
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	-	1
Diabetes	1	-	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	2	4	6
Coronary disease, angina	3	2	5
Hypertension with heart disease	1	-	1
Other heart disease	1	3	4
Influenza	1	-	1
Bronchitis	2	1	3
Other diseases of respiratory system.	-	1	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	1	1
Congenital malformations	1	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	4	1	5
Motor vehicle accidents	-	1	1
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	21	20	41

Almost half of the above deaths were due to Cancer, Coronary Disease and Heart disease collectively.

Atmospheric Pollution.

Further to the comments made by Mr. Walker, in his report (annexed).

Following receipt of complaints from residents in the High Street concerning gas or petrol fumes, arrangements were made for Mr. Howes, Messrs. Waterfall & O'Brien, Analytical Chemists, to carry out a series of tests in the area. These tests confirmed that coal gas was present in one property in the High Street, and one property in St. Denis Road.

The matter was referred to the South Western Gas Board immediately, and no further complaints have been received subsequently.

Infectious Disease.

Apart from the notification of one case of measles, the incidence of infectious disease, particularly Poliomyelitis, Tuberculosis and Food Poisoning, was nil.

Vaccination and Immunisation.

The Wiltshire County Council, as a Local Health Authority, is responsible for the formation of schemes for the immunisation of children against certain infectious diseases. I am indebted to Dr. C.D.L. Lycett, County Medical Officer of Health for the following information:-

DIPHTHERIA, WHOOPING COUGH AND TETANUS IMMUNISATION.

Year of Birth		1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1955-1950 1959	1954
Primary imms.	Diph.	36	44	3	2	1	9	-
completed	Wh/c	36	44	3	-	-	-	-
during 1964.	Tet.	36	44	3	2	1	31	4
Reinf. injects.	Diph	-	8	27	9	2	43	-
administered	Wh/c	-	8	13	2	1	4	-
during 1964.	Tet.	-	8	27	9	2	40	-

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX.

Age Group.	months. 0-3	3-6	6-9	9-12	years 1	2-4	5-14	15 & over.
Vaccinations	-	1	1	5	19	1	1	1
Re-Vaccinations	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-

IMMUNISATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS.

Age Group	2nd inj.	3rd inj.	4th. inj.	3 oral doses.	3 oral after 2 injs.	4 oral after 2 injs & 1 oral.	4 oral after 3 injs or 3 oral.
1964	-	-	-	13	-	-	-
1963	1	1	-	70	-	-	-
1962	-	-	-	22	-	-	-
1961	1	-	-	11	-	-	-
1943-1960	-	-	1	10	-	4	58
1933-1942	-	-	-	7	-	-	-
Others	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
TOTALS:-	2	1	1	135	-	4	58

The following additional statistics have been supplied by Dr. Lycett concerning primary diphtheria immunisation.
1963 babies immunised to 31 Dec 64 were 70; births in 1963 were 55; percent immunised 127.3.

MILK & DAIRIES (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1959.

Following receipt of a series of unsatisfactory Laboratory reports relating to bottle rinses taken over a period at a local dairy, Mr. Stirling and I carried out an inspection of the premises on the 3 Sep. The occupier's attention was drawn to various contraventions against the Regulations and advice was given on the best practical means to bring about an improvement.

A further inspection of the premises was carried out on the 7 Sep with Mr. Cox, County Public Health Inspector, and a letter setting out in detail a number of contraventions against the Milk & Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959, was sent to the occupier of the dairy on the 9 Sep.

Subsequent inspections of the premises concerned showed that a general improvement had taken place.

At the time of writing this report, the dairyman in question has confirmed in writing that as from the 1st.April, 1965, no further bottling of milk would be carried out on the premises, and that all milk sold in future would be designated "Pasteurised".

Milk(Special Designation) Regulations, 1960.

In accordance with the Delegation Agreement drawn up between the Borough Council and the Wilts. County Council, samples of milk retailed in the Borough were taken duringthe year for statutory test at the Public Health Laboratory,Bath. This work was carried out by the Malmesbury R.D.C. Public Health Inspectorate over the period when a public health inspector was not available on the staff of the Borough Council.

Noise Abatement Act, 1960.

There is little I wish to add to the paragraph given under this heading by Mr. Walker in his report (annexed), other than to reiterate that in my opinion, a statutory nuisance, within the meaning of the Noise Abatement Act, 1960 existed in this case. I find it difficult therefore to reconcile the decision of the Malmesbury Magistrates Court not to grant the Council's application for a Nuisance Order. The defendant was not called to give evidence. Pending the issue of qualifying regulations defining Noise; then from a practical point of view, it seems that the Noise Abatement Act, 1960, for the most part, will remain inoperable by local district authorities.

Refuse Collection & Disposal.

From time to time during the year and in previous years, complaints have been received concerning nuisances arising from the Refuse Tip. In part, these complaints appeared to be justified, and arose, in my opinion, to a failure to spray against fly infestation and to covering the tip face after each days operations, with a suitable tip dressing.

Once or twice during the year, I made spot checks on the availability and suitability of dustbins in the Borough, many of which were found to be unsatisfactory. A regulation dustbin is an essential attribute to environmental health, and the Council is reminded of its powers under Section 75 Public Health Act, 1936, requiring the owner or occupier of any building in the district to provide a regulation covered dustbin

Ladies & Gentlemen,

I beg to present the Annual Report of the Public Health Inspector to the Borough Council for the year ending 31st. December, 1964.

As you are aware, Mr. J. Stirling was your Public Health Inspector throughout this period, but resigned in February, 1965, on securing another appointment.

Considerable difficulty has been encountered in compiling this report due to the sparseness of adequate records; in consequence there are considerably fewer statistics and other items incorporated than might otherwise be expected.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Meat - An agreement was reached with the Local Veterinary Surgeons for them to carry out meat inspection on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays as from 3rd. February, 1964; this arrangement apparently worked satisfactorily.

The Bacon Factory run by Messrs. Adye and Hinwood ceased operation in January, but throughout the year Messrs. Newman continued slaughtering at a fairly high level. Killing was carried out on six days per week including Sunday, and full inspection as laid down by the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963, involved considerable overtime being worked by the Public Health Inspector.

A scheme was submitted to Messrs. Newman for connection of the Slaughterhouse to the main public sewer as considerable nuisance was being caused by the effluent being discharged in the River Avon. At the end of the year no progress had been made with this programme

Carcases and offals inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle & Cows	Calves	Sheep Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	2931	101	3985	5688
Number inspected	2931	101	3985	5688
All diseases except tuberculosis and cysticerci Whole carcases condemned.	6	3	2	9

Total weight of meat and offal condemned 9 tons, 7 cwts 2 qrs. 19 lbs.

FOOD PREMISES

Grocers	6	Sweetshops	5
Greengrocers	3	Wet Fish Shops	2
Butchers	5	Fried Fish Shops	2
Small general shops	13	Cake shops	3
Cafes	3	Hotels serving meals to non-residents	6

FOOD PREMISES

The five butchers shops were all registered under Sec. 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955 for the manufacture and sale of sausages.

There are 25 shops from which ice-cream is sold and all are registered under Sec. 16 of the above Act, and all these premises sell pre-wrapped products stored at a regular temperature by refrigeration.

MILK

There are two milk retailers in the Borough.

BAKEHOUSES

There are no bakehouses in the Borough.

FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1955.

During the year, the undermentioned foodstuffs were fou d to be unfit for human consumption and surrender notes were issued accordingly. Diseased meat and offal from the slaughterhouse is collected and taken to Swindon for sterilisation in accordance with the provisions of the Meat (Staining and Sterilisation) Regs. 1960.

Tinned ham	25½ lbs.	Corned beef	4 lbs.
Jellied Veal	4 lbs	Beef	65 lbs.
Poultry	30 lbs	Haggis	15 lbs.

HOUSING

At the end of the year there were apparently fifty applicants on the Housing List.

The scheme for fourteen houses at Newntoh Grove was completed during the year and the houses occupied.

HOUSE PURCHASE AND HOUSING ACT, 1958 amd 1959.

The number of Standard Grants approved during the year were six. The number of Discretionary Grants approved during the year were eight.

HOUSING ACT, 1957 - Slum Clearance.

As a result of formal proceedings under Section 16 of the Act, nine Closing Orders and five Undertakings not to relet were accepted in respect of unfit property.

REFUSE COLLECTION & DISPOSAL.

Refuse is collected twice weekly from the majority of premises in the Borough and disposed of by controlled tipping within the Borough boundary, a practice in which considerable difficulty was encountered during the year from persons setting fire to the tip. During the summer a severe fly nuisance made it impossible to use the tip for a period, and tipping was carried out at the Sewerage Works. This nuisance appeared to have arisen due to insufficient cover being available at the Conygre Mead Tip. Salvage paper and cardboard is collected twice monthly as a special collection service.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The new sewera ge system was completed during the year and the new Sewerag e Works are operating satisfactorily. The volume of sewag e treated has increased and few premises, other than the priv ate slaughterhouse, remain to be connected.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

No statistics are available.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963.

No inspections appear to have been made during the year.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 SECTION 50(1).

A local girl was the victim of a fatal accident at the end of 1963 and was removed to the mortuary at Chippenham. The parents stated that they were unable to pay for the funeral and the cost was borne by the Mid-Wilts.Hospital Committee in this instance.

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960.

After numerous complaints by a local resident and the failure of all informal actiob to effect an improvement, legal proceedings were taken against a local butcher who co-mmenced chopping and sawing at 4.30 a.m. several mornings per week. In spite of the evidence of the Medical Officer, who stated that in his opinion there was a public nuisance, the magistrates dismissed the case without calling on the defence.

PETROLEUM ACT, 1927.

In the early part of the year there appears to have been considerable disruption of the lives of persons living in Lower High Street, due to a smell of petrol which in several properties was particularly strong. The leak was eventually traced to a tank of one garage in the High Street which was subsequently replaced.

This, gentlemen, concludes the annual report for the year 1964.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

J.R.M. Walker,

Public Health Inspector.